

# Punched holes in East German stamp done to cover up error

In the May *Bulletin* we asked about the pair of East German stamps shown here and asked whether the holes were legitimate or the product of someone with a punch and imagination.

Gerhard Siebenbrodt (#3323) provided us the answer from the Michel Specialized Catalog of Germany. "*Michel #251 (Scott #54) German Democratic Republic thrice punched. Position 38 in sheet, from about 45,000 sheets from the printing period August-September 1950. The lower hole got rid of a plate flaw "DFUTSCHE," F instead of E. The other two holes served for the better recognition of this error, because the stamps were to be removed in the post*



office, collected, and later burned. Only a few of these stamps got into the hands of collectors."

Siebenbrodt says they are not perfins, of course, but that they probably have some curiosity value. Michel does not price them.

The example shown here, in a pair, cancelled, indicates that either some postal clerk failed to do his job or the stamps were canceled as a favor. The cancellation is impossible to read clearly.